

Huntington students selected to participate in the First Lady's Inaugural Dress Donation Ceremony; Students selected based on their original designs of an inauguration gown for Michelle Obama

Hauppauge, NY – On Friday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) will join with students from the Huntington High School Fashion Program for a send-off ahead of their trip next week to participate in a historic ceremony where First Lady Michelle Obama will donate her inauguration gown to the Smithsonian.



“We couldn’t be more proud of our local students getting selected to participate in such a historic event. Their original designs inspired the First Lady and earned them this amazing opportunity. I commend the students for their dedication to their craft and I thank their parents and teachers for their commitment to these students,” said Rep. Israel.

“The fashion program at Huntington High School is simply outstanding and our teachers and students have helped make it shine,” Huntington Superintendent John J. Finello said. “We are all excited by the invitation from Mrs. Obama to attend the Smithsonian ceremony and for wonderful experience and lasting memories it will provide.”

On the afternoon of February 19, Huntington High School received a call from the White House. The First Lady was planning the donation ceremony of her inaugural gown to the Smithsonian’s First Ladies Collection, and she wanted Huntington High School’s Fashion program students to be there. Mrs. Obama had remembered a thoughtful fashion illustration project sent to her by the students almost a year ago.

In March 2009, Fashion teachers Kristin Singer and Amy Worth challenged their students to create an inaugural dress design that would reflect Mrs. Obama’s essence and spirit. The students studied Mrs. Obama’s fashion style and the work of prominent designers. The teachers then sent a book of more than 50 original dress designs to the First Lady and asked her and her daughters to select their favorite. Much to their delight, Mrs. Obama sent them a personal letter in May, commending the students’ hard work and remarking “They’re all such

elegant, creative works, and I would be proud to wear any of your creations.”

Remembering the unique project, Mrs. Obama asked the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History to create a special mentoring experience for the fashion students on March 8th and 9th. The inaugural dress donation will take place on Tuesday, March 9 at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Huntington is the only school group participating.